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The World's Columbian Exposition marked the climax of human achievement. It will live in memory of the crowning glory of modern times. No other development of the closing century can compare with it in practical benefit to mankind.

Who that exhibited is not proud of it? Who that failed to exhibit does not regret the omission? The former are the people of to-day. The latter are relics of the past.

No honor so high as that embodied in an award at the fair. Competition was world-wide, the fruits of ripest experience and noblest endeavors were submitted for examination.

Honest tribunals, composed of eminent scientists, examined and passed upon the claims of exhibitors. Their judgement based on inquiry and justice, proves conclusively the value of any article they commend.

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It received the highest award at the fair from a jury headed by the Chief Chemist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Price's was officially commended for highest leavening power, purity, keeping qualities and general excellence.

COBRA AND ITS VENOM.

Interesting Observations on the Deadliest of All Reptiles.

Thousands or More Persons Die Annually in India from its Attacks—It Can Actually Kill Without Biting.

Mr. G. R. O'Reilly shows a remarkable familiarity with snakes. In Popular Science Monthly he writes about the cobra. Among the very interesting facts he tells about this, the deadliest of all snakes, is that it is able to squirt its venom from the ground to the height of a man's face.

Every year 10,000 or more persons lose their lives in India from the bite of the cobra. This has happened from time out of mind, and there is no immediate prospect of stopping it.

There are several varieties of cobra, including Naja tripudians of India, Naja haja of north Africa, and Sepeodon boemachates of South Africa. True cobras do not exist in other countries. They vary in color from brown to black, but are usually banded with light and dark rings. At full growth they are usually four feet in length and two inches in diameter, but they sometimes reach a length of six feet.

Venomous snakes are roughly divided by Mr. O'Reilly into two classes—viperae and elapidae. The rattlesnake belongs to the former and the cobra to the latter. The head in the rattlesnake is broad and flat and the neck very thin. In the cobra the head, neck and body are of about the same thickness until the tail is reached.

The cobra is very timid. The least motion alarms him. If you stand before a cobra and move your right and left hands up and down it will strike repeatedly to the right and left, following your motions. This habit accounts for the belief that the cobra loves music and dances to it. It is the player's motions which cause the snake to dance. The cobra is very quick-sighted, but practically without hearing, as its head is entirely covered by the skin in the place where the ears would be.

So nervous is the cobra that it will strike at a moving object before it has



come within its reach. It is very wasteful of its venom.

These are three of the peculiar characteristics of the cobra: (1) It rarely opens its mouth when striking, but actually gives a deadly blow without biting. (2) It is deliberately when in a state of apparent death from muscular contortion, and will then hang on like a bulldog, the venom flowing all the time into the wound in which its fangs are buried, until it drops at last from sheer exhaustion; (3) It can squirt the venom from its fangs into a person's eyes and thus blind him, for a time at least.

Mr. O'Reilly was first convinced of the venom-squirting habit of the cobra by this incident:

"One day, being alone in the bush, I

saw a cobra banded with black and white. He was in an open glade, gliding through the herbage, delaying a little perhaps for an opportunity to get at some birds that were chattering and hopping about on the branches of a thorny, yellow-blossomed acacia. The sun was blazing down fiercely on him, as, with half-distended hood held close to the ground, he slowly passed through the leaves and flowers. For a few minutes I watched his movements through my binocular glass, but, fearing he might notice me and escape in some hole, I picked up my six-foot hunting stick and rushed toward him, intending to press his head to the ground with it and then take him by the neck with my hand.

"He saw me coming and like a valiant warrior that knew his power he faced around and stood erect with expanded hood and quivering tongue, ready to receive me. His bright, black eyes sparkled with energetic defiance and every fiber of his being was electrified with excitement.

"While I was yet ten feet away he struck toward me with such force that the impetus carried him flat to the ground. In trying to get my stick across his neck he dodged it, and it came instead across the middle of his body. At this moment he was between me and the sun, with about five feet between his face and mine. I looked into his eyes and held him down firmly. His rage seemed redoubled. He leaned backward to make a more vigorous dash at me, and as he struck forward the mouth partially opened and two tiny streams of venom shot from his fangs as from a syringe, one of them catching me on the face just beneath the eye. Had it gone a little higher up I should have been blinded for months and perhaps had my sight permanently injured.

"This unexpected attack made me hasten the capture, so, getting his neck pressed down to the ground with the stick, I soon had him grasped in my hand just behind the head in such a way that he couldn't possibly turn to bite me—which he made every effort to do for some minutes afterward. Taking him home with much satisfaction, I made him thereafter my fellow lodger. While living in his cage I observed him many times squirt the venom from his fangs against the glass of its front. Thenceforth my doubts about spitting snakes were removed."

The cobra's poison fangs project beyond the lower lips when it strikes, so that it can injure fatally without biting.

THE HOUSEKEEPER.

MILK which has changed may be rendered fit for use by stirring in a little soda.

FRESH meat beginning to sour will sweeten if placed out of doors in the air over night.

FISH may be scaled more easily by first dipping them into boiling water for a minute.

TO COLOR white pasteboard the color of leather soak in solution of copperas and then in ammonia.

CLEAN brass with hot water, rub with a soft cloth and lemon juice, rinse in hot water and polish with a chamol.

A CUP of hot milk flavored with orange-flower water, or one of beef tea, is excellent for an invalid just before retiring.

An authority on domestic economy advises the housekeeper of limited means to save her fire and strength and do as much ironing with the clothes wringer as possible. Plain pieces, like towels, pillow cases, sheets, napkins and stockings put through the wringer will be smooth enough for all practical purposes, if the rollers are tight.

HENRY C. HANSBROUGH.

North Dakota's Senior Senator is a Newspaper Man.

The senior senator from the state of North Dakota, Hon. Henry C. Hansbrough, began his career as a printer, but soon passed into the profession of journalism, from which he graduated as a statesman. He passed the days of his boyhood in the little town of Prairie du Rocher, which is situated in Randolph county, Ill. It was here that he was born on the 30th day of January, 1848, and where he received his common-school education. From this place he removed, in 1867, with his parents to California, in which latter state he picked up the trade of a printer. Two years later he began the publication of a daily paper at San Jose, and later became connected with the San Francisco Chronicle, with which he remained until the year 1879.



SENATOR H. C. HANSBROUGH, N. D.

Returning east Mr. Hansbrough published for two years a paper at Paraboo, Wis. Removing in 1882 to what was then the territory of Dakota, he continued to engage in journalism. It was about this time that he became prominent as an advocate of the republican policy of dividing the territory and admitting both sections to the union.

He was twice elected mayor of Devil's Lake. In 1888 he was chosen as a delegate to the republican national convention at Chicago, and was there chosen to act as national committeeman for North Dakota. Shortly after this he was elected by his district as a representative in the Fifty-first congress, and in 1891 the state legislature sent him to the United States senate as a republican, to succeed Gilbert A. Pierce. Senator Hansbrough's term will expire March 8, 1897.

NERVE-TRYING BUSINESS.

A Shoe Salesman Tells of His Troubles with Women Customers.

"I do not believe," said a salesman in a big retail shoe house on State street, where a vast number of shoes are sold every day and principally to ladies, "that any business in the world will try a man's nerve and patience like this. The best and sweetest tempered woman in the world becomes a cold-blooded cynic the moment she starts to buy a pair of shoes. She has a fixed idea in her head that she wears a certain size and any attempt of a salesman to convince her that she wears a size larger is regarded as an affront. I have actually had women walk away from me and ask the manager to send some one else to wait on them because I showed them by measuring the outline of their feet, drawn on a piece of paper, that they were mistaken in their size."

"I remember particularly one lady who insisted that she wore a 3 A, and had never worn anything else in her life. The shoe she had on was a 4 A, although marked one size smaller. I was imprudent enough to demonstrate this to her, and she took the shoes from my hand and walked with one stocking-foot to another salesman. Yes."



YOU CAN'T CONVINCE THEM.

terday I had a customer who tried on fourteen pairs of shoes, and then did not buy, because she could not get her foot into the size that she declared was her fit. By the time we are ready to go home I feel sour enough to make vinegar out of cider by looking at it."

Money Value of Hands and Fingers.

An engineering journal has collected some interesting statistics from the tables of a German miners' insurance company. If a man loses both hands he is registered as entailing a 100 per cent. loss. In other words, he has been deprived of the ability to earn a livelihood. The loss of the right hand depreciates the value of an individual as a worker 70 to 80 per cent., while the loss of the left hand leaves him with only 60 to 70 per cent. of his original earning capacity. The thumb is taken as playing a part equal to 20 to 30 per cent. as a bread winner; the first finger of the right hand is put at 14 to 18 per cent., and of the left hand at from 8 to 13.5 per cent., and the middle finger of either hand is worth from 10 to 16 per cent. The value of the third finger is put down as from 7 to 9 per cent., while that of the little finger is estimated at 9 to 12 per cent. These values may appear arbitrary, but it is explained that the apparent inconsistency in the rating is occasioned by the difference in the trades followed by the injured ones.

Cost of Railroads Diminishing.

The cost of railroad construction has, of late years, diminished in France and increased in Great Britain.

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FACTS ABOUT THE SEA.

Dr. Young estimates the mean depth of the Atlantic at about 16,000 feet.

The saline matter held in solution in sea water comprises one thirtieth of its weight.

The water of the Mediterranean contains a greater portion of salt than that of the ocean.

The sea-cypress a kind of coral, sometimes has 6,000 to 10,000 animals on a single branch.

Nearly three fourths of the world's drainage, directly or indirectly, pours into the Atlantic ocean.

It is estimated that the water of the whole ocean contains in solution over 2,000,000 tons of pure silver.

It is estimated that two years are required for the gulf water to travel from Florida to the coast of Norway.

The whole bottom of the ocean is covered with a layer of calcareous ooze, mingled with the skeletons and other animal remains of its inhabitants.

If it were not for the salts of the ocean the whole sea would soon become a mass of corruption, owing to the decay of the organic matter it contains.

A Trusting Jurymen. Some people are too trusting for this world. At a recent trial the prisoner entered a plea of "not guilty," when one of the jury put on his hat and started for the door. The judge called him back and informed him that he could not leave until the case was tried. "Pled!" cried the juror; "why he acknowledges that he is not guilty."

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